

**Preliminary Amendment**

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Applicant(s): Baumann et al.

Serial No. Unknown (Parent Serial No. 10/109,804)

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For: DECK ASSEMBLY FOR A SELF-PROPELLED, WALK-BEHIND ROTARY LAWN MOWER

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**Abstract**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 2, with the following amended paragraph.

A deck assembly for a self-propelled, walk-behind rotary lawn rotary mower ~~is provided~~. The deck assembly ~~is configurable for either front or rear wheel drive and~~ includes a deck defining a cutting chamber which may house a cutting member. The cutting chamber is bound at least in part by a rear enclosure member. The deck assembly may ~~also includes~~ a side discharge port having a side discharge port door. A rear discharge port located on a rear portion of the deck is also provided. Preferably, a duct of substantially rectangular cross section extends through the rear enclosure member between the cutting chamber and the rear discharge port. In one embodiment, the duct has a first, uppermost surface and a second, lowermost surface, wherein the first, uppermost surface and the second, lowermost surface both form substantially horizontal planes.